

Final Report of Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Prepared: 8/8/14
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P.O. Box 1520
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DOB: 3/26/09 Race: C Gender: M

Type of Report: X Fatality Near Fatality

Date of Fatality or Near Fatality: 9/19/12

Cause and Circumstances of the Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Report Accepted for Investigation: 9/14/12

Summary of Allegations: On 9/14/12, SCDSS received a report alleging physical abuse and neglect of a child by parents due to the child being found non-responsive. Mother states the child sat in a chair. She left the room for a few minutes, and when she returned, the chair had collapsed on the child. A sibling was present during the incident. The parents have an open treatment case due to substance abuse. The parents have been non-compliant. The father is unable to protect the minor children. The child is currently hospitalized for pediatric cardiac arrest and the child's status is unknown at this time.

Date Investigation Initiated: 9/14/12

Case Decision: The case was indicated for physical neglect by the mother and father.

Date of Case Decision: 10/9/12

Basis for Case Decision: Mother's drug test was negative, but she admitted to use of un-prescribed medications the night before the incident. Father tested positive for Methamphetamines and Amphetamines. The mother has made suicidal statements and states that she hears voices. Parents have not complied with treatment services.

The Department's Response After the Fatality or Near Fatality

SCDSS placed the sibling of the deceased child with the maternal grandparents. Legal custody was granted to the grandparents and the previous family preservation service case was ordered

to close. The grandparents were ordered to supervise contacts between the children and their parents.

SCDSS was providing Family Preservation case management and monitoring at the time of the child's death. The case closed on 1/18/13.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Fatality or Near Fatality. (Note: State law prohibits disclosure of records or information in unfounded cases).

Date Investigation Initiated: 4/01/11

Summary of Allegations: On 4/01/11, SCDSS received a report alleging neglect of the children in that both parents are daily using bath salts, a synthetic amphetamine. Mother disclosed she has hallucinations and she is possessed by demons. Mother has self-inflicted injuries that she states are being caused by the demons. Mother says she wants to kill her children and slit their throats. The children are with their father in the home.

Case Decision: The case was indicated for physical neglect against mother.

Basis for Case Decision: There was physical neglect of the children by their mother. The mother was using bath salts, which causes delusions, hallucinations, addiction, health problems, and strange behavior. The mother was admitted for treatment due to believing that she and her children had demons. She was released and then readmitted into another facility.

SCDSS provided Family Preservation Services. The mother received outpatient and inpatient substance abuse treatment, group and individual counseling. The mother was assisted in applying for disability.

This case was open at the time of the child fatality.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Fatality or Near Fatality. (Note: State law prohibits disclosure of records or information in unfounded cases).

Date Investigation Initiated: 8/25/09

Summary of Allegations: On 8/25/09, SCDSS received a report alleging the mother tested positive for THC, BENZODIAPHINE AND AMPHETAMINES. The mother is having difficulty bonding with the sibling of deceased child and is having nightmares about biting off the child's fingers.

Case Decision: The case was indicated for substantial risk of physical neglect against mother.

Basis for Case Decision: Mother's drug use, as well as mental health and parenting issues.

SCDSS provided Family Preservation Services. The mother received substance abuse treatment, mental health services, including prescribed medication. The mother successfully graduated from the substance abuse treatment program.

The mother and father successfully demonstrated capacity to protect their children by ensuring all their needs are met. The parents also ensured the children were in a drug free environment. The mother completed substance abuse treatment, and continues mental health services and medication for anxiety. At the time of the child fatality, this case was closed.